United Nations E/2006/NGO/32

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
16 May 2006

Original: English

Substantive session of 2006
Geneva, 3-28 July 2006
Item 2 of the provisional agenda*
Creating an environment at the national and international levels conducive to generating full and productive employment and decent work for all, and its impact on sustainable development

Statement submitted by Mumbai Educational Trust, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/2006/100.

06-35153 (E) 160606

Statement

The Mumbai Educational Trust (MET) has been empowering the youth ever since its inception in 1989 in Mumbai ((State of Maharashtra, India). It conducts high technology based professional programmes in the fields of Management, Information Technology and Medicine. MET is an NGO that enjoys ECOSOC Special Consultative Status since 2003.

We would like to mention our two key learning programmes undertaken in the rural and urban context namely

1. Project Truth — Total Rural Upliftment Through Holistic Care
2. Mumbai University Sesquicentenary Quest (MUSESQ)

1. Project Truth — Total Rural Upliftment Through Holistic Care

This project aims at the holistic development of the indigenous people located in denuded forest areas 40 km. North of Mumbai. Here it came to our realization that these indigenous people prefer conventional options of self employment such as cattle rearing and livestock farming. This was especially helpful towards the empowerment of the usually marginalized womenfolk resulting in productive and decent employment for them. Similarly the setting up of a center for tribal art and culture has also proved useful in tapping the high potential of the young children. Finally, a programme involving generation of electricity from bio wastes ensures round the year employment to these tribals resulting in decent work and overall rural upliftment.

2. Mumbai University Sesquicentenary Quest (MUSESQ)

The second programme is based on the launch of 150 missions to commemorate 150 years of the Mumbai University and will be launched by Dr. Abdul Kalam — Honourable President of India. The mission's aim at achieving both the MDGs as well as reaching out to the urban poor. The students of MET will be actively working in achieving the missions in accordance with the desired output. Thus the MUSESQ helps in building the youth with a sense of social responsibility which in turn would impact their work attitude and performance, resulting in decent employment and enable them to value laws.

As the entire project focuses on the underdeveloped communities especially indigenous communities, MET feels that if technology based interventions like utilization of bio-wastes and weeds for critical energy production would succeed then sustained decent employment will surely not be a pipe dream.